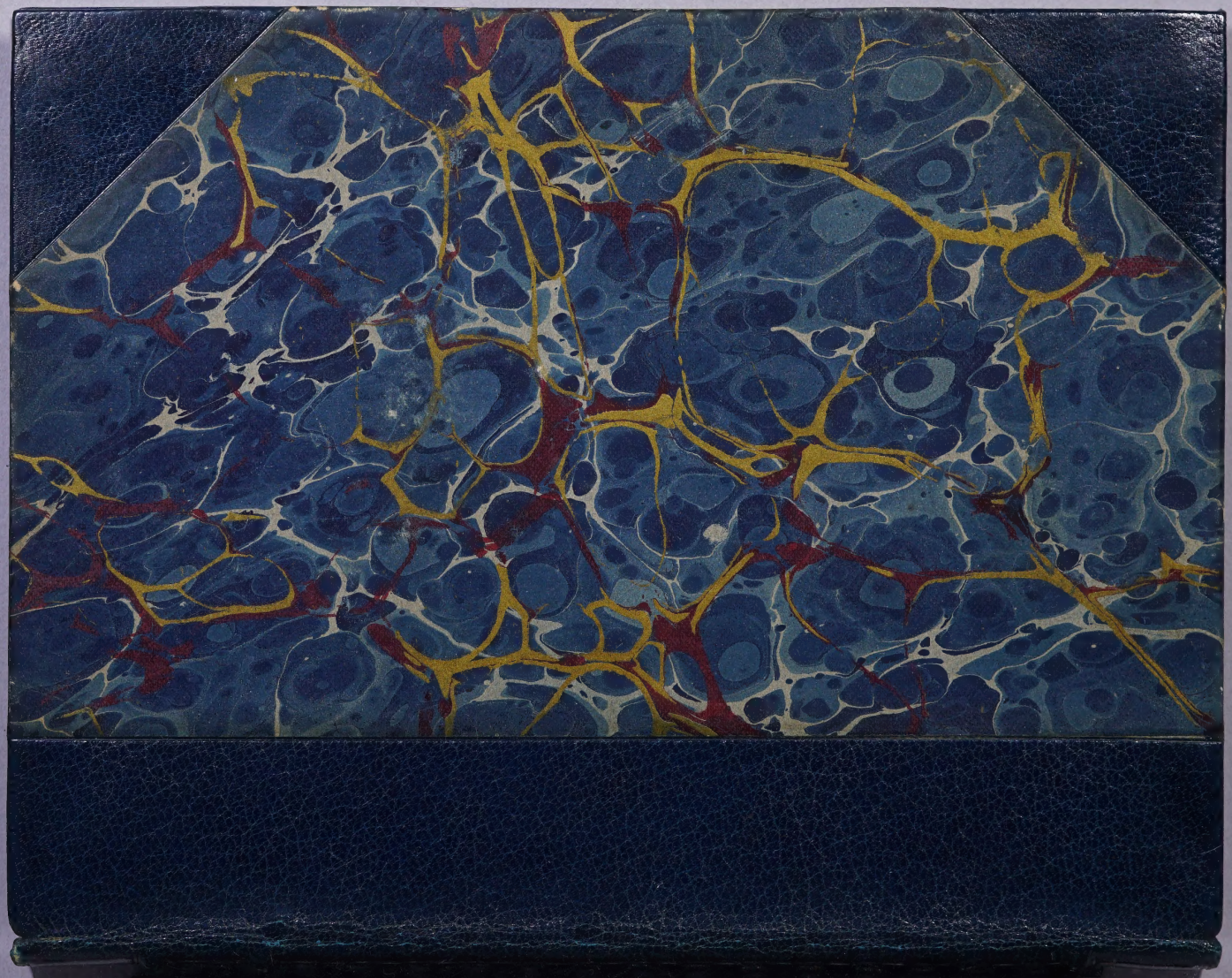

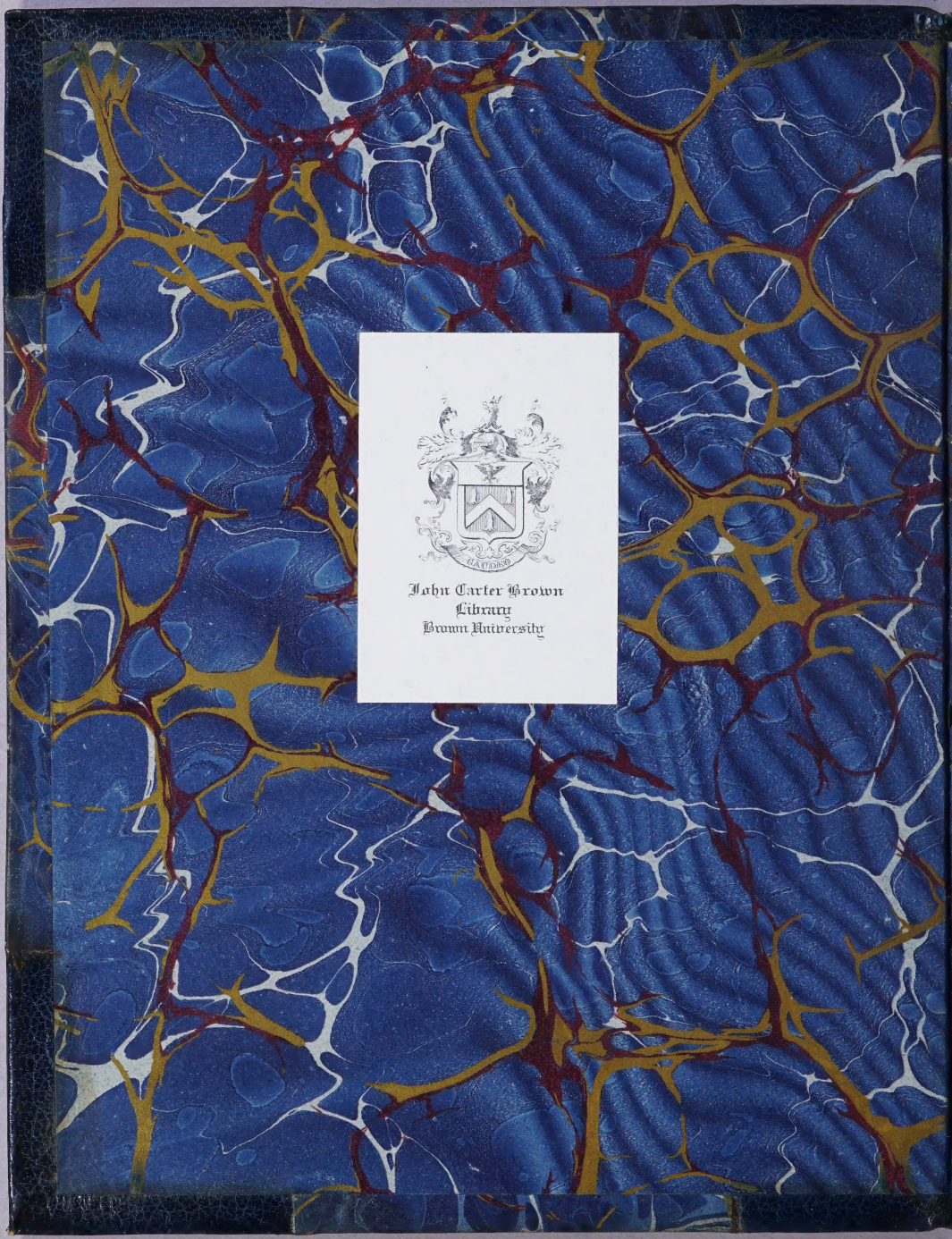
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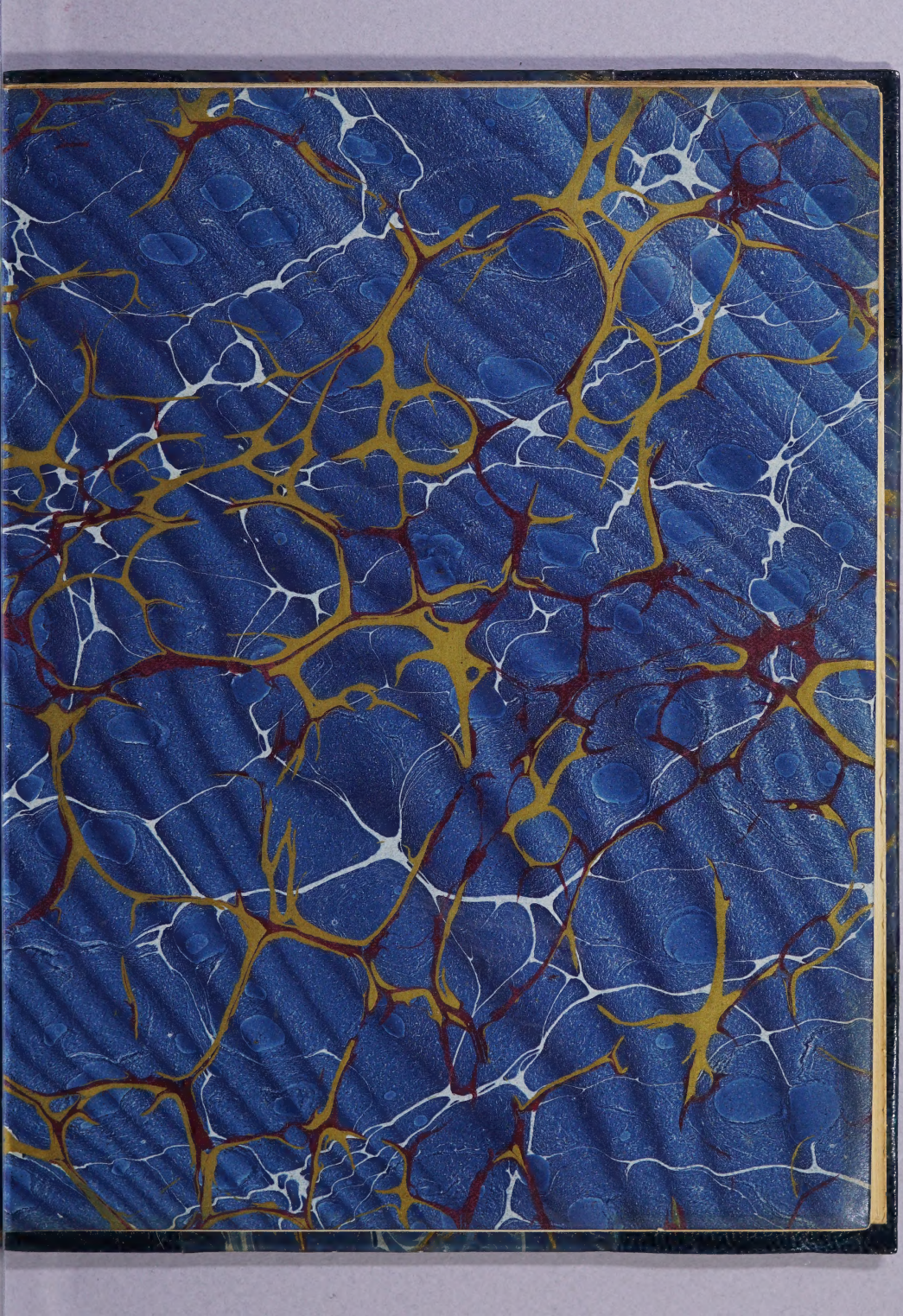

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Darien

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A LETTER, giving

A

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

ISTHMUS

OF

DARIAN:

(Where the SCOT'S *COLONIE* is settled;)

From a *GENTLEMAN* who lives there at present.

With an *Account* of the *Fertilneſs* of the *Soil*, The *Quality* of the *Air*, The *Manners* of the *Inhabitants*, And the *Nature* of the *Plants*, and *Animals*. *&c.*

AND

A particular *MAPP* of the *Iſthmus*, and Entrance to the *River* of *DARIAN*.

EDINBURGH,

Printed for *John Mackie*, in the *Parliament-Cloſs*, and *James Wardlaw* on the North Side of the *Street* a little below the *Croſs*, at the ſign of the *Bible*. Price 7 *Pence*.

M. DC. XC. IX.

A New Map of the
ISTHMUS of DARIAN in
AMERICA & Bay of PANAMA
The Gulph of St MICHAL with Its
ISLANDS, & COUNTRIES Adjacent
NORTH SEA
15 30 60
Scotish Miles
SPARE NOUGHT
To the right Honourable
IOHN Marques of
TWEEDALE Earl Gifferd viscount
Walden Lord Hay of Yester, this
Map is humbly Dedicated
ISTHMUS of DARIAN
CALEDONIA
BAY OF PANAMA
VERGUA
CARTAGENA
Portobel
Trinidad
Nombre de Dios
Cumbres R
Port Sambalas
The Sambalas
Islands
Golf of Darian
New Edinburgh
Salmedina
Cartagena
Caramari I
Sino Bay
Frinds Islands
Telu
Cenu
St Sebastian de Buena Vista Dest:
St Maria
R Verde
R de los Anados
R Grande
Val de Guaca
Montanas de Abibe
Tatabe
The Gold R and Mines
Sta Maria
Gulph of St Michael
Pearl Isl.
Kings or Azaram Pelado
Pacheque
Cuzaleta
Morena
Otoque I
Chuche
Tabago I
Tebegilla I
I Chepelio
I Perica
Panama New
Venta de Cruzes
Chagre Cast
Iuan
Barbacoa
Crus de
Pocubi
Nata
Shols
I Guanos
Quiribiby
Punta Mala or Bad Pt
Fryars
Gallera I
Pt Garachina
I St Paul
Pt St Laurence
Pinas
Rio Grande del Darian
SOUTH SEA

A *LETTER*, *giving a* Description *of the* Isthmus *of* Darian, *(where the* Scot's Colony *is settled) from a* Gentleman *who lives there at present.*

SIR,

CONform to your Desire, and mine own Promise: I have sent You the following Description of *Darian*; I was up the Country when the two Gentlemen went for *Scotland* who brought the News of our arrival: but having now an Occasion I have sent you the following Account.

You desired a particular Account of the said *Darian*, long since, And according to your Desire, I have sent a particular Account of the *Nature* of the *Ground*, *Animals*, *Fruits*, and *Trees*; and what *Minerals* they have, with a Draught of the Place, The *Habits* of their *Kings* aud *Queens*, The *Form* of their *Houses*, The *Way* of their *Fighting* with the *Spaniards* and other Enemies.

Since our safe Arrival We have vieued, transvers'd, and gone about near an hundered Miles in the Country formerly called *Darian*: but We have named it *CALEDONIA*, and there is a Fort very conveniently built, which We call *New-EDINBURGH*.

The *Isthmus* of *Darian* is situated in the *Main-Land* of *America*, on the North of the *Equinoctial Line*, 8 *degr.* 11 *min. Latitude*; The Land is narrower from the *North* to

 the

the *South* Sea, which you will see by the *Mapp*: As for the great *River* of *Darian*, it is situated something to the *Eastward* of the *Golden Island*.

The golden Island is but a small place, not much bigger than *Inch-Keith* in the *Firth* of *Forth*.

There are a great many Islands westward from the golden Island 14. *Leagues* called *Zanblas* Islands.

The Situation of our *Fort* does ly very conveniently, having a *Bay* upon the *West*, with many small *Rocks*, which make it inaccessable; On the *East*, the great River of *Darian*.

The *Soil* is as good here, as in any other place in *America*; up the Country there are long Ranges of *Mountains*, well cloathed with *Trees*, which for the most part are *Palm*, and *Yellow-Sanders*; The Inhabitants call it *Bois de Chandle*, or in English *Candle-Wood*; It burns like a Candle, and serves them with Light while they fish in the Night time. Here grows also *Lignum sanctum*, or *Guiacum*, its Virtues are very well known, more especially to those who observe not well the VII. Commandment, and are giv'n to impure Copulations; Physicians drawing hence in severall Compositions the greatest Antidote against all venereall Deseases, as also for cold and vitious Humors.

The Tree likewise that affords *Gummi Elemi* grows here in great Aboundance; As doth *Radix Chinæ*, or *China-Root*;

There is a *Prickle Palm*, so call'd because it is infinitly full of *Prickles* from the *Root* to the *Leaves*; with these Prickles the *Indians* use to torment the Prisoners they take in Battle, they tye them to a Tree, then takeing these Thorns they put them into little Pellets of Cotton dipt in Oil, and stick them

in

in the Sides of the miserable prisoners, as thick as the Bristles of an *Hedg-Hogg* : which cause an incredible Torment to the Patient; Then they set them a Fire, and if the tormented Prisoner sing in the Midst of his Torments : He is esteem'd a couragious Soldier, who neither fears his Enemies nor the Torture; But if on the contrary, He cry out, they esteem him a Coward, and unworthy of any Memory. This Custom was told me by an *Indian*, who said He had used his Enemy thus, oftentimes. But to teturn to the *Prickle-Palm*, I shall only tell you that these Palm Trees in this only differ from the ordinary *Palms*, The *Leaves* are like these of other *Palm* Trees, only a little bigger, and rounder, and full of little *Kernels*, as pleaseing to the Taste as the *Walnuts* in *Europe*. The *Wine-Palm* is so call'd from the Aboundance of Wine gathered from it, of an extraordinary Shape or Form for from the *Root* up half Way, it is only three or four Inches thick; but upward, something above two thirds of its Height; It is as big, and as thick, as an ordinary Bucket, & within it is full of a certain Matter very like a slender Stock of white *Cabbage*, which is a very juicy of a Liquor much pleasing to the Palate; This Liquor after Fermentation and Settling of the Grounds, becomes very good and clear Wine.

The *Fruit* is much like to that of other *Palms*, but smaller, like *Cherries*; To write farther of the Trees, it would fill a great many Sheets; But I will only name them : *Palm a Chapelet*, or *Rosary-Palm*, so called by the *French*, and *Spaniards*; *Caremit-Tree*, very like our *Pear-Tree*, very pleasing to the Taste; *Genpa-Trees*, like to our *Cherry Trees*; besides these, there are diverse other Sorts of Trees, as *Cedars* in great Aboundance, which this Part of the World produces; They are very usefull for building Ships and Canoa's, These *Canoa's*

noa's are like little Ferry-Boats, being made only of one Tree hollowed, and fitted, for the Sea: They are so swift, that they may be called *Neptun's* POST-HORSES. The *Indians* make these *Canoa's* without any Iron Instruments, by only burning the Trees nigh the Root, and then so governing the fire, as nothing is burnt more than what they would have; Some have *Hatches* of *Flint* wherewith they scrape or pare off whatsoever are burnt too far, and these by fire only they give that shape which renders them capable of navigating 60. or 80. *Leagues* with ordinary Security. Here is *Basile-Wood*, *Yaco* is another Sort of Tree; Here are a great many *Cabbage-Trees*, the *Cabbage* growing on the Top of it. Here grows the *Coco-Nut*, of which the *Chacolat* is made. Here grows the *Pinn-Apple*, and a great dale of *Plantine*, or *Sugar-Canes*, of which they make *Sugar*; And a great dale of other Trees, which being too tedious to give you an Account of, I forbear; You may have any *Trees*, *Roots*, or *Herbs*, that grow in *Europe* as well as others that will not grow there, as *Mammi*; *&c.* You may have a great dale of *Tobacco* if you plant, much better than in any Place to the Northward.

I shall give you an Account of the makeing *Sugar* & *Indigo* in another place.

Flies as Insects severall Sorts of them, these are as big as Horse-Flies in *Europe*, and denting themselves upon Mens Bodys, stick and suck the Blood till they can no longer fly, which obliges the Inhabitants to wear continually Branches of Trees to Fan them away; There are a great dale of other Sorts, as *Cochinilla's*; There are monstruous *Adders* which are very frequent in these Places, upon which Account I durst never lye on the Grass; Here are very good Land *Tortoises*, which are very good meat; There are also *Crocodiles*, I could tell you, a good true story about One of them, but being too tedious I forbear. There

There is a great dale of *Doggs*, *Deer*, *Rabbets*, and *Monkeys*, and many other Sorts of Quadrupeds, which Ye have not the like of in *Europe*.

You have a great dale of all Sorts of Fowls many wherof do not breed in *Europe*, as *Parrots*; They make their Nests in Holes of *Palmito* Trees, which Holes are before made by other Birds, for they are not capable of excavating any wood tho' never so soft, having their own Bills too crooked and blunt; Hence provident Nature hath supplyed them with the Labour of other Birds called *Carpenteros*, or *Carpinters*; These are no bigger than *Sparrows*: Yet having such hard and pierceing Bills, that no Iron Instrument can be made fitter to excavate any Tree, though never so solid, and hard; And these Holes the Parrots getting Possession of build their Nests.

Of *Pigeons* of all Sorts we are aboundantly provided; There is another small Bird here called *Cabreros*, or *Goat-Keepers*, and chiefly feed upon *Crabs* of the *Sea*; In these Birds are seaven distinct *Bladders* of *Gall*, and their Flesh is as bitter as *Aloes*: Of these We have aboundance.

There are very many *Crows*, or *Ravens*, more troublesome, than usefull, who make a most hideous Noise,.

We have several fruits & roots very usefull, as *Potatos*, they dres them only by well boiling them in a Kettle, with fair clean water; Then we cover them with a Cloath for half an Hour where they become as soft as boiled *Chesnuts*; Of the said *Patatos* we make a Drink called *Maiz*: They cut them into small slices, and cover them with hot water; when they are well imbibed they press them through a course Cloath, and the *Liquor* that comes throgh tho something thick they keep in Vessels made for that Purpose; Hereafter settling two or three Days, it works: And having thrown off its *Lees*, is

fit for Drink They uſe with great Delight, and tho' it be ſomewhat ſour : Yet it is very pleaſant, ſubſtantial, and extraordinary wholſome ; The Invention of this is wholly owing to the *Indians*, as well as many other things found out for the Preſervation of Mans Life.

There is a Root ealled by the Indians *Cazave* of which they make a Liquor called *Vey-Cou* much like unto *Beer*.

Another Fruit called *Bananas*, is an excellent Liquor, which in Strength, and Pleaſantneſs of Taſt, may be compared to the beſt Wines of *Spain* : But this Liquor eaſily cauſes Drunkenneſs.

VVe begin now to plant *Tobacco* for Trade ; The Manner whereof is this : VVe make Bedds of Earth 12. Foot ſquare, theſe thay cover with *Palmito* Leaves, that the Rays of the *Sun* may not reach the Earth ; Then we water them when it doth not rain, as we do our Gardens in *Europe* ; Being grown about the Bigneſs of young *Lettuce* : we tranſplant it into ſtreight Lines in ſpacious Fields, ſetting every Plant 3. Foot diſtant from each other ; The *Tobacco* muſt be weeded very carefulſy : ſeing the leaſt Root of any other Herb comeing near it hinders its Grouth.

There is a ſort of Fiſh which the *Indians* many times eat of it is much like unto a *Cow*, becauſe its Head, Noſe, and Teeth, are very like to them ; They are found commonly where under the Depth of the waters its full of Graſs, in which its thought they feed ; They have no Ears, but in place of them two little Holes, as wide as ones little finger ; Near the Neck thy have two Finns, under which are two Uders, like the Breaſt of a VVoman ; The Skin is very cloſs, this Skin on the Back is two finger thick which being dryed is as hard as whalebone, and may ſerve to make walking-ſtaffs

the Belly is in all things like that of a *Cow*, as far as the *Reins*; their manner of engendring is the same with that of a land Cow, the Male being every way like that of a *Bull*; they conceave and breed but once, but what Time they go with *Calf*, I could learn; These Fishes have a very acute Sense of *Hearing*, so as in takeing them the fisher-men makeing not the least Noise do not row unless very slightly, for this reason they use certain Instruments for Rowing, by the *Indians* called *Pagayos* with which they row without any Noise to fright the fish while they are a fishing they speak not one to another only make signs, they dart them with Javelins having two Hooks at the End; These fish are ordinarly from 20 to 24 Foot long; Their Flesh is good to eat, being in like in colour to that of a land Cow, but in taste to Pork It hath much *Fat*, or *Grease*, which We make Oil of.

We have also another fish called *Tortoise*, of an indifferent Bigness, and of a green Colour, their Scales are somewhat hard, and of a very pleasant Taste; There is another Sort somewhat smaller; this Sort commonly keep themselves among the Rocks, whence they crawl out for Food, which is generally *Sea-Apples*; These other above mentioned, feed on *Grass*, which grows in the Water on the sandy Banks; Their Eggs are almost like these of a *Crocodile*, but without any *shell*, being only covered with a thin *film*; They are found in such prodigious Quantitys along the shore, that were they not frequently destroy'd by Birds, the Seas would abound with *Tortoises*.

The Way and Manner of fishing them is as follows; *viz.* by makeing a great Nail, or Kind of Dart; this they fix at the End of a long Pole, with which they kill the *Tortoises* whenever they appear above Water.

dedicat

The *Indians* for the most part are very dextrous in takeing these *Tortoises.*

I will give you an Account of our shooting of some *Monkeys*, and *Birds* called *Pheasants* ; The Toil of shooting did seem, at least to me, to be sufficiently compensated with the Pleasure of killing the *Monkeys*, for at these We made ordinarly 15 or 16 shot before We could kill three or four, so nimbly would they escape our Hands, and aim even after being much wounded ; On the other side it was a Diversion to see the femal Monkeys carry their little Ones on their backs when any Person passed under the Trees where these Monkeys are sitting ; They will commonly squirt their Excrements upon our Heads and Cloaths ; likewise if shooting at any, one happen to be wounded, the rest flock about him, and do lay their Paws upon the Wound to hinder the blood from issuing forth, others gather *Moss* from the Trees and thrust into the Wound, and hereby stop the Blood ; At other times they gather such or such *Herbs*, and cheuing them in their Mouth apply as Poultties, all which caused in Me great Admiration, seing such strange Actions in these irrational Creatures, which testified the fidelity and love they had for one another.

I shall give you an Account, by the way, of the *People* ; I have learned to speak somewhat of the *Language* by One of them them who can speak tolerable good *English*.

I enquir'd into their *Customs*, *Lives*, and *Policy* : whereof I give you this Account ; They are governed by a King, and severall Princes : they have generally a great Hatred against the *Spaniards*, There are a great many persons of them; they are very courtious to any that give them any thing. Here are two Sorts of People of them : The one Sort cultivates the Ground, and make Plantations ; these are most numerous,

the

the other is a lazy sort, never seen but at Night : They have *Hutts* that they live in all Day, till Night ; they not careing for any other Habitation

They use no other Cloaths than an *Apron* ty'd to their Middle, comeing down so as to hide their *Privitys* ; such Aprons are made of the *Rinds* of *Trees*, which they strongly beat upon *Stones* till they are sofned ; The same they use for *Bed-Cloaths*, except a few who make them of *Cotton*, they are whiter than the whitest in *Scotland*.

The other is of a *Browniſh* Colour, but very handsome Bodys of *Men* and *Women* tightly limb'd, the Men of them are verie dextruous at *Bow* and *Arrow*, and very good *spears* the common Sort use spears of *timber*, the points are shod with *Iron*, or *teeth* of *Crocodiles*. They are most dextrous in *Swimming*, I did never see the like of them in *Doucking* for they will continue near half an Hour below the *Water*.

I could never learn what *Religion* they have, all I could learn was they neither believe in, nor serve the *Devil* : as many other Nations in *America*, do ; Hereby they are not so much tormented by him as other Nations are. They are very attentive at our Form of *Worship* ; they did tell me they did not like *Spaniards* Religion, for they are as ill as those that worship the *Devil*, for that Religion can not be good which is so cruel.

Their ordinary Food consists in severall *Fruits*, a little indian *Corn* ; Fruits, such as *Bananas*, *Racoves*, *Ananas*, *Potatos*, *Cazave* ; As also *Crabs*, and severall *Fish*, which they kill in the sea with *Darts*, which they are wonderfully dextruous at.

They are pretty expert in makeing certain pleasant and delicat

licat *Liquors* ; The commoneſt among them is called *Acl.ioc*, this is made of a certain *Seed* of P*alm-tree*, bruiſed and ſteept in hot water, till it be ſettled at the Bottom. This Liquor being ſtrain,d off, hath a pleaſant *taſte*, and is very nouriſhing. Other ſorts of liquors they prepare, which I ſhall omit for brevity ; only I'll ſay ſomething of that made of P*latanos* Theſe they knead hot with water, and then put into great *Calabaſhes*, full of cold water for eight Days, during which it ferments as well as the beſt wine. This Liquor they drink for Pleaſure, and as a great Regale, ſo that when they invite any of their Friends, or Relations, they cannot treat them better than with this pleaſant Drink.

They are very unskilful in dreſſing Victuals ; ſo that they very ſeldom treat one another with Banquets. *But* when they invite others they deſire them to come and drink of their Liquors. Before the invited Perſons come to their Houſe, thoſe that expect them, comb their Hair verie well, and anoint their Faces with the Oil of P*a'm*, mixt with a black Tincture which renders them very hideous, The women, alſo dawb their Faces with another Sort of Stuff, which makes them look ts red as *Crimſon*. And ſuch are their greateſt Ornament, and Attire, Then He that invites, takes his Arms, which are three or four A*zagayas*, and goes out his *Cottage* 3 or 400 Steps, to wait for, and receive the invited perſons. As ſoon as they draw nigh, he falls down on the Ground, lying flat on his Face, without any Motion, as if he were dead ; being thus proſtrat, the invited Friends take him up, and ſet him on his Feet, and go altogether to the *Hutt*. Here the Perſons invited, uſe the ſame Ceremony falling down to the Ground, as the Inviter did before. *But* he lifts them up one by one, and giving them his Hand, conducts them into his

Cottage

Cottage, where he causes them to sit. The VVomen on these Occasions use few, or no Ceremonys.

Being thus brought into the House, they are presented every one with a *Calabash*, of about two *Pynts* of *Scotish* Measure, full of *Achioc* almost as thick as Water-Gruel, or Children-Pap. These they are to drink off, and get down at any Rate.

These Calabashes being emptied, the Master of the House, with many Ceremonys, goes about the Room, and gathereth his Calabashes. And this Drinking hitherto is reckon'd but one Wellcome. Afterwards, they drink of the *Achioch* above mention'd, to which they were invited.

Then follow many Songs and Dances, and 1000 Caresses, to the Women; So that oftentemes, for a Testimony of their great Love, they take their Darts, and with the points, they pierce and wound their genital parts. This I could believe, though often affirmed to me, till my own Eyes were Witnesses of these and the like actions. Neither only on this Occasion do they use this Ceremony of pierceing their Genitals, but also when they make love to any Woman, thereby to let them understand the Greatness of their Affection, and Constancy.

They marry not any yeung Maid without the Consent of her Parents. If any desires to take a Wife, he is first examined by the Damsels Father concerning severall Sorts of good Husbandry. These are commonly, whether He can make *Azagayas*, Darts for fishing; or spin a certain *Thread*, which they use about their Arrows. Having answered to Satisfaction, the Examiner calls to his Daughter, for a little *Cabalash* full of *Achioc*. Of this he drinks first; then gives the *Cup* to the young Man; and He to the Bride, who drinks it out and with this only Ceremony the *Marriage* is made. When

any

any one drinks to the Health of another, the second Person is to drink out the Liquor, left in the *Calabash*, but in Case of Marriage, as was said, it is consum'd only among them three : And the Bride allways obtaining, by far, the greater share.

When the *Woman* lys in, neither She nor her Husband observe the Time, costomarie among the *Carribes* ; But as soon as the VVoman is delevered, she goes to the next *River*, *Brook* or *Fountain*, and washes the new-born Creature, swathing it up in certain *Rowlers*, or *Swath-Bands*, there call'd *Cabalas*. This done she goes about Her ordinarie Labour. When the *Man* dies, his Wife burys Him with all his *Aragayas*, *Aprons*, and *Ear-Jewels* ; and comes every Day to her Husbands *Grave* bringing Him *Meat*, and *Drink*, for a whole *Year* after.

Their *Years* they reckon by *Moons*, allowing fifteen to every Year, which makes their entire *Circle*, as our twelve *Moneths*, do ours.

Some *Writers* of the *Carribbe-Islands*, affirm, that this *Ceremony*, of carrying of *Victuals* to the *Dead*, is generall among them ; and that the *Devil* comes to the *Sepulchres*, and carries away the *Meat* and *Drink*. But I know the contrarie, having my self taken away these *Offerings*, and eaten them ; for I knew that the *Fruits* used on these *Occasions*, were of the choicest, and the *Liquors* of the best Sort. The Widow having compleated her *Year*, opens the *Grave*, and takes out all her Husbands *Bones* ; These she scrapes, and washes very well & puts them in a *Cabala*, or *Satchel*, & is obliged for another *year* to carry them upon her Back all *Day*, and to sleep upon them all *Night*, till the *Year* be out. Then she hangs up the *Bagg* and *Bones*, against the *Pest* of her own *Door*, if she be a *Mistresse* of an *House*, if not she hangs them at the *Door* of her next

next Neighbour, or Relations.

The *Widows* cannot marrie the ſecond time, according to their Cuſtoms, till after two *Years* End; the *Men* are bound to perform no ſuch *Ceremonys* for their *Wives*; But if anie *Pirrat* marrie an *indian* Woman, ſhe is bound to do in all things as if he were an *Indian*.

I ſhall proceed now to give you an Account of the *Men*, *Women*, and their *Habits*;

They wear as an *Ornament* in their *Noſes*, a *Gold*, or *Silver Plate*, in *Form* of an *Half-Moon*; which when they drink, they hold up with one *Hand*, while they lift up the *Cup* with the other. The *Men* paint themſelves ſometimes with *Streaks* of *Black*, and the *Women* with *Red*. The *Women* have in their *Noſes* a pretty thick *Ring* of *Gold* or *Silver* and cover themſelves with a *Blanket* only. They are generally well featured: Among whom I ſaw ſeverall fairer than the faireſt in *Europe*, with *Hair* as white as the fineſt *Flax*. 'Tis reported of them, that they ſee better in the Dark, than in the Light.

I ſhall further give You an Account of our going up the country to their *King* or chief *Captain*; we marching from our *Fort* with Captain *Andræas*, and other of their *Princes*: We began our March towards their head Place, where their *King* reſided, firſt through a ſmall Skirt of a *Wood*, and then over a *Bay* almoſt three *Miles*, or a *League* in Length. After that We went about ſix or ſeaven *Miles* up a woody *Valley*, and We ſaw here and there ſome old *Plantation*, and had a very good Path to march in. There we came to the ſide of a *River*, which in moſt places was dry, and built Us *Houſes*, or rather *Hutts*, to lodge in.

The *Indians* forbad us to ly upon the *Graſs*, for Fear of monſtrous

monſtruous *Adders*, which are very frequent in thoſe places.

Breakeing ſome of the *Stones* that lay in the *River*, We found them ſhine with *Sparks* of *Gold*; Theſe Stones were driven down from the neighbouring *Mountains* in Time of *Floods*.

The next day of our March We mounted a very ſteep *Hill*, and on the other ſide, at the *Foot* thereof, We reſted on the *Bank* of a *River*, which Captain *Andreas* told us, ran into South *Sea*, being the ſame River on which the Town of *Santa Maria* was ſituated. Hence We continued our March till about *Noon*, and then aſcended another Mountain, far higher than the former; Here We were often, and in many places in great Danger, the Mountain being ſo nigh to a *Perpendicular*, and the *Path* ſo narrow, that but one Man at a Time could paſs, We arrived in the *Evening* on the other Side of the Mountain, and lodg'd again by the Side of the ſame River.

Next *Morning*, We march'd all along the River aforemention'd, croſſing it often, almoſt at ev'ry half Mile, ſometimes up to the *Knees*, and at other times up to the Middle, in a very rapid current. About Noon we came to a place, where we found ſome *Indian* Houſes, Theſe were very large, and neat: The ſides were built of *Cabbage*-Trees, and the Roofs of wild *Canes*, thatch'd with *Palmito-Royal*; They had many Partitions, or diſtinct Ground-Roomes, but no Aſcent by *Stairs*. At this place were four of theſe Houſes together, all within a Stone's throw of one another, each of them haveing a large *Plantan* Walk before it. Half a Mile from this place, liv'd the *King*, or chief *Captain* of the *Indians* of *Darian* whe came to viſit Us in Royal *Robes*, with his *Queen*, and *Family*. His *Crown* was made of ſmall white *Reeds* curiouſly

riously woven, having no other *Top* than its lineing, which was red *Silk*. Round about the middle of it was a thin plate of *Gold*, about two Inches broad, lac'd behind, in which stuck two or three *Ostrich* Feathers. About this Plate went also a Row of golden Beads, which were bigger than ordinar *Pease*; underneath which was seen the red lining of the *Crown*. In his Nose he wore a large Plate of Gold, in Form of an half-*Moon*; and in each Ear a great gold Ring, nigh four Inches diameter with a round thin plate of Gold of the same Breadth, having an small Hole in the Center, by which it hung to the Ring. He was covered with a thin white *Cotton* Robe, reaching to the small of his *Leggs*, and round its Bottom a Frienge of the same, three Inches deep; so that by reason of the length of this Robe, We could see no farther than his naked *Anckles*. In his Hand He had a long bright *Lance* as sharp as any Knife. With Him He had three Sons each of them having a white Robe, and their Lances in their Hands, but standing bare-headed before Him; as also did eight or nine Persons more of his Retinue, or Guard.

His *Queen* wore a red *Blanket*, which was closly girt about *waist*, and another that came losely over her head & shoulders. She had a young child in her Arms, and two Daughters walked by her, with their Faces almost cov'red with stripps, of streaks of red, and about their Necks, and Armes almost loaden with small Beads of severall Colours. These *Indian* Women of *Darian*, are generally very free, airy, & brisk; yet withall very modest, and cautious in their Husbands Presence, of whose Jealousie they stand in Fear. With these *Indians* We made an Exchainge, or had a Truck, as it is called, for *Knives*, *Pins*, *Needles*, or any such-like Trifles; but in our Dealing with them we found them to be very cunning.

He gave Us a Calabash full of Liquor which they make of *Plantans*; This sort of Fruit is first reduced to *Mash*, then laid betwixt Leaves of the same Tree, and so used with Warer. After which Preparation, they call it *Miscelaw*. On our March hither We found in our Way, here, and there, an House or two, whose Owners commonly stood at the door and gave, as we Passed by, to every one of Us, either a ripe *Plantan*, or else a *Cazave*, or some other sweet and pleasant *Root*.

This Captaine or King, is the head of their other Captains when they go to Battle against the *Spaniards*, somewhat to the South-ward of this Place is a pleasant *Plain*, the generall Place the *Indians* rendez-vous in.

I shall now give You an Account of the rest of their *Captains*.

Captain *Ambrosio* commands from the River *Pinas*, *Bononos*, *Mango*, and *Cocos*, to the *Samblas*, He is a Man above sixty, but strong and vigorous, a mortall Enemy to the *Spaniards*, with whom He has had long *War*; He is esteem'd the bravest, and most succesfull of all their Commanders on every Occasion; He's of a middle Size, well made, strongly limb'd, and of a grave, and somewhat stern Countenance.

He has a Son in law, one *Pedro*, a brisk little Fellow who speaks good *Spanish*, haveing been a Slave to them at *Panama* for severall Years, and who can never forget, nor forgive, their Usage of him there.

Captain *Diego* commands from the Bottom of the Gulph of *Uraba* on this side to *Caret*-Bay, and has about 3000. Men under his Command; He is esteem'd the most powerfull amongst them, and has been at War with the *Spaniard* about

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a twelve Month. The Occaſion was this: The *Indians* haveing found three Gold Mines within his Juriſdiction, being two ſmall ones, and a very great Vein, conſulted with themſelves what to do; And being ſenſible that they did not underſtand how to work them, concluded to diſcover them to the *Spaniards*, provided they'd allow them ſuch a ſhare of the Profit. This was agreed to, and faithfully promiſed by the *Spaniards*, but no ſooner had the *Indians* ſhew'd the *Mines* but they ſhut up two of them, and put ſtrong guards upon them, and fell to work upon the third, of which the *Indians* demanding their ſhare, they beat and abuſed them, calling them their Slaves, and threatned to exterminat them, which provock'd them ſo, that a little time after, they ſiez'd upon 20. *Spaniards*, and 3. *Prieſts*, and cut them all to pieces.

The next to *Diego*, is one Captain *Powſigo* of *Caret*-Bay, He is one of the *Indian* Clergy-Men, and commands that Part of the Coaſt which lyes between *Caret*-Bay, and golden Iſland; He is but a ſmall Captain, and Brother-in-Law to *Andræas*.

The *Peninſula* which we poſſeſs, and which we found uninhabited (nor has it ever been by any heretofore, that we have yet hear'd of,) lys betwixt his Bounds, and Captain *Andræas*'s.

From *Golden-Iſland*, to the River *Pinas*, about a *League* to the *Weſt-ward* of the *Iſle* of *Pinas*, *Andræas*, and his Brother *Pedro* command, they are greater than *Powſigo*, but not ſo powerfull as *Diego*; yet their united Intereſts by Conſanguinity, together with the Vicinity of their Commands to our Settlement, makes their Friendſhip of much greater Conſequence.

Theſe People have had a good Correſpondence, for ſeverall *Years* paſt, with the *Spaniards*, and have ſuffered ſome of them to reſide among 'em to give an Account by Land to *Panama*, from time to time, who were upon this Coaſt about two months before our Arrivall here.

Captain *Ambroſo*, who has the adjoyning Command, forced them to enter into the common Confederacy, and cutt off ten *Spaniards* who lived on the *Main* of the golden-Iſland, I diſtinguiſh it thus, by reaſon the Natives call all the *Main* oppoſite to the Iſland, by the ſame Name that it bears. About a League from the Water ſide there is an high Mountain wherein they aſſure Us are ſeverall *Mines* of excellent *Gold*. The *Spaniards* are very ſenſible of this, and from time to time have taken great Care by fair or foul Means, never to let them be opned, well knowing that (being ſo near the *North-ſea*) they ſhould have the leaſt ſhare of them to themſelvs.

Captain *Andræas* has often been at *Panama*, the *Mines* of *Santa Maria*, and the *South-Sea*; The *Spaniards* believeing he might be uſefull to them, made Him a Captain, by giveing Him a ſtick tip't with Silver, upon which He values himſelf above others, and that has (we are apt to believe) endeared Him to their Intereſts; yet the Love of ones Country, and Liberty is ſo naturall, that we have good Reaſon to believe that aſſoon (being a ſenſible cunning Fellow) as He finds we are able to protect Him, he will heartily join to our Intereſt.

Captain *Pedro* is eſteemed by *Ambroſo*, and all his People whoſe Daughter he has to VVife, as alſo two of her Daughters by himſelf, which is allowed here, yet it ſeems that they believe it a Crime, ſince if they have any children during the

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Life of their mother, they are buried alive, (I mean the child ren) which is very ſtrange, that the innocent ſhould ſuffer for the guilty.

They preſt Us very hard to come and live by them, as alſo jovntly to make war with the *Spaniards*, whom they would engage upon the Forfaulture of their Heads, if we would aſſiſt them with an hundered arm'd Men, and as many Arms, with 2000. of their own People, to drive. not only out of the *Mines*, (which are but three Days Journey from this Place,) but even out of *Panama* it ſelf. VVe gave them fair words, and promiſed to go to the *Weſt-ward* with them to vieu the Coaſts, and if there were any convenienter Harbour for our ſhips, we would be their Neighbours.

The *Sanblaz* to the River *Conc.ption*, is commanded by one *Corbet*.

Next to *Corbet* from the River *Conception*, is one *Nicola*, a Man who ſpeaks *Spaniſh* as well as any naturall *Spaniard*, having been for about a dozen of Years of his Youth among them; He likewiſe reads and writes it perfectly, and underſtands the State of *Europe* very well : which none other of them have any Notion of ; He is ſaid to be wiſe and extremly beloved by his People, for his Juſtice, and good Nature, in ſo much that there has been Deſigns to cut off *Ambroſio*, and place Him in his Room, for He is of a rough military temper, and often upon ſlight pretinces makes bold to take away what they have from them; However if they do not love him, they fear him, and his near Alliance, and ſtrick Friendſhip with *Diego* in the Gulph, a powerfull, and gallant old Fellow, renders Him very ſecure.

This *Nicola* was in good Terms with the *Spaniards* till about a twelve Month agoe, a Triffle made Him brake with them : and 'twas this ;

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He had got an excellent French *Fuzie* from a *Buccanier*, which He valu'd extremly : 'Twas somewhat out of Order, nor did He know how to right it again; A Spaniſh *Don* from *Porto-Bello* being at his Houſe, told him he would carry it with Him, and get it mended for Him, which the other conſenting to, with a Deſire it might be return'd as ſoon as poſſible, They parted. The *Don* ſhew'd it to the Governour, who liked it extremly, and ſaid 'twas too good for an Heathen; So ordered an old ruſty *Match-Lock* to be ſent in Lieu. This He took ſo hainouſly, that He fell upon the *Spaniards* wherever He found 'em, and cut them off, neither is He to be reconſil'd to them.

Ambroſio who all the reſt allow to be the moſt dareing, and brave, as alſo the moſt faithful to his Promiſe, being a true Friend, and a moſt inveterat Enemy to the *Spaniards*: keeps Him within Bounds.

From the mouth of the River *Coco*, about a good League We went to *Ambroſio*'s Houſe, it ſtanding upon the Bank of this River, with about ten or a Dozen leſſer Houſes about it. When We came near, *Ambroſio* advanc'd about fifty Paces, with twenty Followers, all cloath'd in white looſe *Frocks*, with *Frienges* round the Bottom, and *Lances* in their Hands.

He ſaluted Us kindly, and gave Us a Calabaſh full of Liquor almoſt like *Lambs-Wool*, which they call *Miſhlow*, being made of Indian *Corn*, and *Pattatoes*. This they get drink withall often; Before the houſe, about twenty Paces it was very ſmooth and clean. The houſe was about 50. Foot in Length, 35. in *B*readth, and 30. in *H*eight. I was curiovſly thatch'd with *Palmetto-Royal*, and over that *Cajan* Leavs, The *Floor* was of a firm *Earth*, like *Tarras*, very ſmooth, and clean

clean. The *Sides* were of large *Canes*, about the Bigneſs of a Mans Legg, and near an *Inch* aſunder.

In this Houſe live *Ambroſio*, and *Pedro* with their whole Familys, in all about 40. Perſons.

There was an old Woman who cook'd their Victuals for them, and was very ſtirring about the Houſe; She ſeem'd to Us to be near ſixty, (and was *Ambroſio*'s Grand-Mother) but upon asking Her Age, We were inform'd She was an hundred and twenty; We could not believe it, and were perſuaded they muſt miſtake in the Computation of Time: but as an infallible Demonſtration, they ſhew'd to Us the ſixth Generation of this Womans Body in the Houſe, which was indeed very ſurpriſeing; And we were aſſured 'twas common amongſt them to live 150. or 60. Years; Yea 'tis obſerved thoſe of them who converſe often with the *Europeans*, & drink their ſtrong Liquors, are ſhort liv'd

While We ſtay'd there, *Ambroſio*, and *Pedro* went out with their *Guns* to kill ſome *Fowl* for Us; *Pedro* return'd with ſome *Partridges*, the largeſt, and beſt that e're I ſaw, being bigger than our *Capons*, and exceeding ſweet.

On *November* 30. Captain *Andreas* came a-board the St. *Andrew*, We waiting an Oportunity of clearing ſome Suſpicions We had of his Correſpondence with the *Spaniard*, We taxt Him with it, and He ingeniouſly confeſt that the *Spaniards* had been friendly to Him, and had made Him a *Captain*; that He was obliged for his Safty to keep fair with them, They aſſureing Him We were nothing but *Privateers*, who had no Deſign to ſettle, but to plunder both *Spaniards*, and *Indians*, and be gone in two or three Months time, as they uſed to do, and if ſo, if He aſſiſted Us in any Meaſure,

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as soon as We were gone, they'd destroy both Him, and His.

VVe gave Him all possible Assurances of the Contrary, so that He was fully satisfied, and desired we would give Him a *Commission*, and receave Him, and his People into our Ptotection; which if we did, He'd give Us all his Right to hispart of the Country. VVhereupon a *Commession* was ordered for Capt. *Andræas*, and being read and approven of, it was delivered to Him.

The *Commission* being read, and rendered *Verbatim* to Him in *Spanish*, He agreed to every *Article*: then before 7 or 8 of his own People, and severall of ours, it was delivered unto Him with a broad basked-hilted *Sword*, and a Pair of *Pistolls*, with which He solemly promised to defend Us to the last *Dropp* of His Blood, against all our Enemys.

Upon Advice of the *K.* of *Spain's* Indisposition, *Count Montizeuma* Vice-Roy of *Mexico*, born in that Kingdom, and of the Race of these great Emperors, had made such an Interest that 'tis not to be doubted that he will speedily set up for himself.

Carthageen has likewise been in a civil *War*, which is only covered, not quencht.

At *Porto-Bell* about 700. Slaves got into a Body, which in a little time encreast to above 1500. The Governour not being able to suppress them, was forced to come to very dishonourable Terms, *viz.* to allow them to be a free People, independent of the *Spaniards*, and only call'd their Friends.

Captain *Powsigo* of *Caret*-Bay, told us of severall *Gold-Mines* within two Miles of us, and shew'd us a *Sample* of the *Gold*, which was extraordinary fine.

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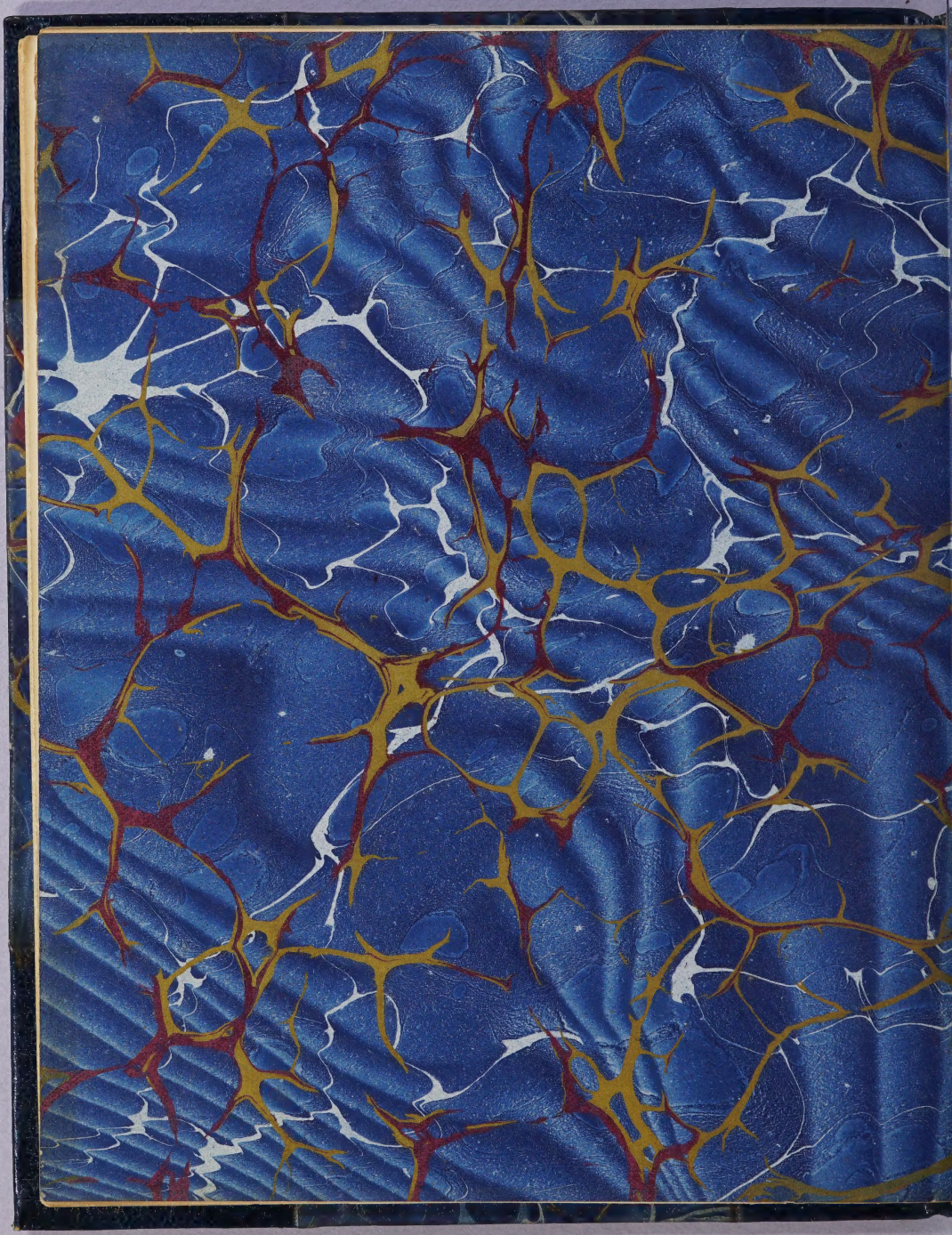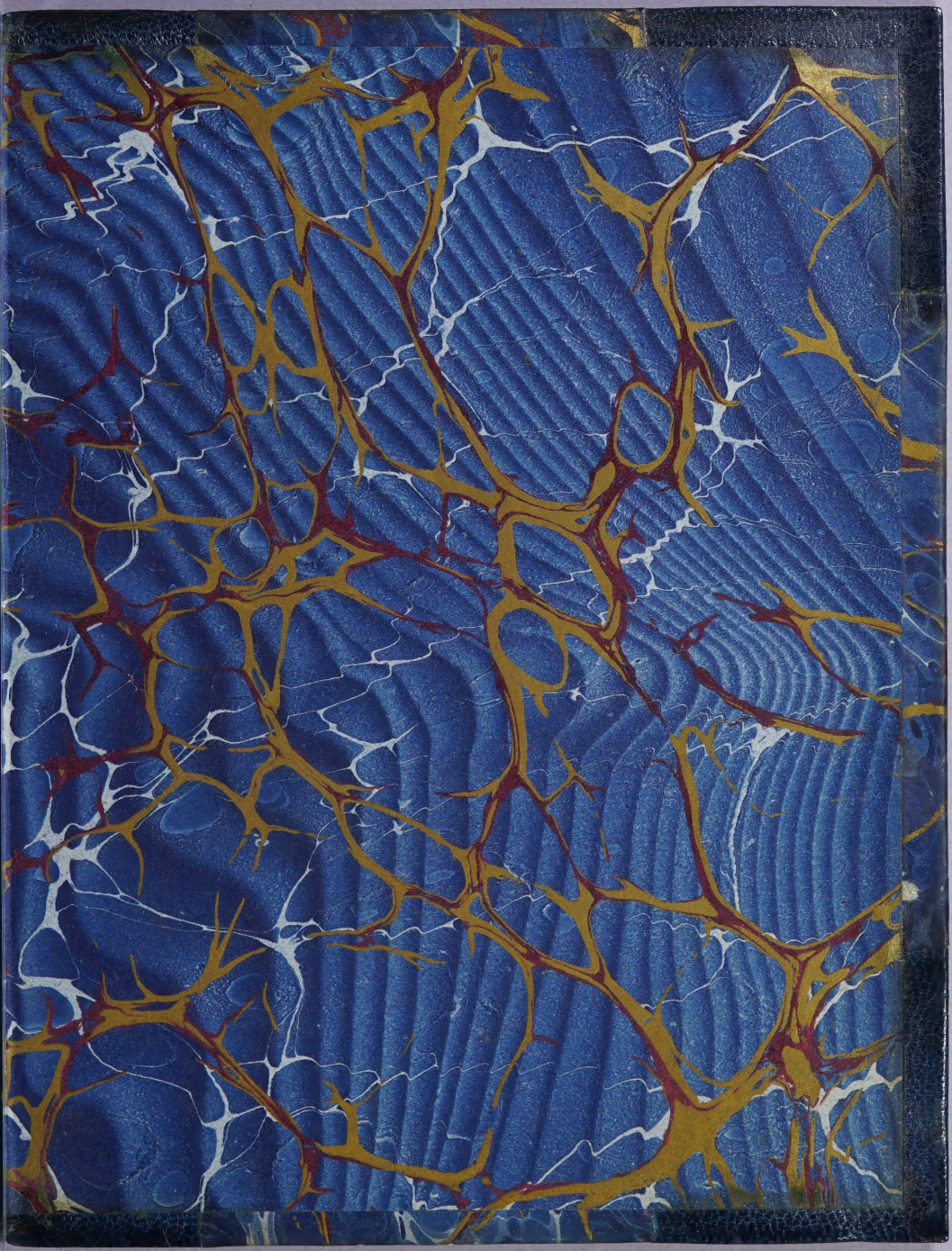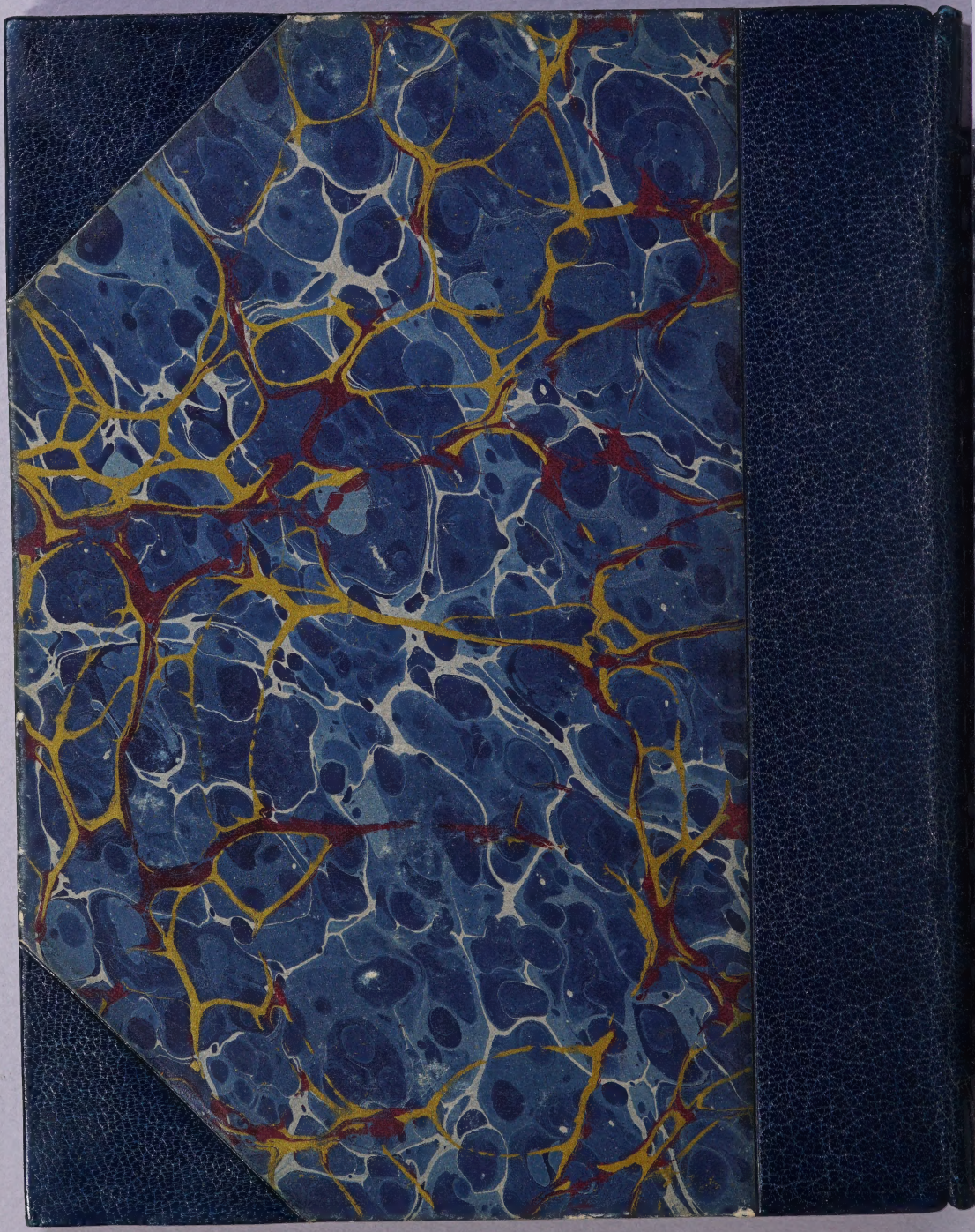
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